

Moore, David

From: Gregg Moore <Gregg.Moore@co.eau-claire.wi.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 7:25 PM
To: Moore, David
Subject: Suggestion for Civil Legal Services Committee
Attachments: PPAC Critical Issues Excerpts.pdf

Hello, David. As I may have mentioned or as you may know, the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Policy and Planning Advisory Committee prepares a report every other year identifying the most critical issues facing the Wisconsin Court System. Attached is a short document I prepared in which I "cut and pasted" excerpts from several of the recent reports. I think the members of the Legislative Council Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services may find this somewhat informative and helpful. Thank you for whatever follow-up you think is appropriate.

This communication constitutes an electronic communication within the meaning of the Electronic Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510 and its disclosure is strictly limited to the recipient intended by the sender of this message. This communication is confidential and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient does not constitute waiver or loss of the confidential or privileged nature of the communication. If the person receiving this message is not the intended recipient or you have received this message in error, any review, publication, copying or other distribution of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately at the email address above, return the original message to me by mail, destroy any copies you may have made and delete the communication from any computer and/or storage media. Thank you for your cooperation.

Excerpts from the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Policy and Planning Advisory Committee's Biennial Reports, Critical Issues: Planning Priorities for the Wisconsin Court System

Circuit court judges, clerks of court, district attorneys, county board chairs and others complete surveys every other year to help the Wisconsin Supreme Court identify the most critical issues and planning priorities facing the Wisconsin Court System. Based on the survey results and other deliberations, biennial reports are developed. Following are excerpts from several recent reports, which can be found at www.wicourts.gov.

2012-2014: Access to Justice

The increasing population of self-represented litigants places an added burden on judges, court commissioners, court staff, and court processes that stresses available resources to handle this population. Each of the surveyed stakeholder groups chose this issue as a top priority, with 25% of respondents ranking self-represented litigants as their top issue. Respondents provided diverse and detailed strategies to address this system-wide issue. Comments generally focused on increasing human resources available to self-represented litigants, encouraging the development of more pro bono or legal clinic services, providing more training and education for the judiciary, clerk staff, and litigants, and providing more materials for litigants.

2010-2012: Self-Represented Litigants

Self-represented litigants issues were a planning priority for the court system for the past three planning cycles (2004-06, 2006-08, 2008-10) and remain critical in 2010-2012. Each of the surveyed stakeholder groups chose this issue area to be a top priority of the court system. One hundred and four or 25% of respondents ranked self-represented litigants as their top issue. Respondents provided diverse and detailed strategies for continuing work to address this system wide issue.

2008-2010: Self-Represented Litigants

In this planning process, Self-Represented Litigants was ranked as the highest priority by the Family Court Commissioners who took part in a planning session. PPAC members, Judges, Clerks of Court, Judicial Court Commissioners, and the State Bar Board of Governors all identified this as one of the top four priorities.

2006-2008: Assistance to Self-Represented Litigants

For a long time we have been challenged by what to do with people who cannot afford to hire an attorney or who want to handle their cases themselves. The challenge will not go away, and evidence indicates a trend toward even greater numbers of litigants choosing or being forced to represent themselves. Respondents to the survey conducted by the Planning Subcommittee, taken as a whole, ranked self-represented litigants the number one concern facing the court system. Although not every group of respondents ranked this topic number one, four of the five largest groups comprising more than 70% of the respondents (attorneys, judges and court commissioners, court staff and clerks of court) ranked this concern either first or third.